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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Thursday, October 9, 2003

Two Indiana School Districts Receive Emergency Response/Crisis Management Grants

Turkey Run Community School Corporation, in Parke County, and MSD Wayne Township Schools, in Marion County, were recently notified they had received **Emergency Response and Crisis Management Planning** grants from the U.S. Department of Education.

“We are proud of all the work that has been done to help maintain a safe learning environment in all of Indiana’s schools. This is further evidence that our state and our corporations take the safety of our students extremely seriously,” said Dr. Suellen Reed, Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Turkey Run schools received \$88,692. They plan to use the grant money to train and place a school safety team in each building, conduct a safety audit, improve corporation policies and training regarding harassment, bullying, and the prevention of drug and tobacco use. They plan to conduct monthly training exercises, and hold training sessions for staff on how to assist after the crisis is over. Turkey Run schools also plan to train safety teams in CPR and first aid. Their community partners are: the Parke County Sheriff’s Department; Parke County Emergency Operations Center; Parke County Health Office; Marshall Fire Department; Parke County Emergency Ambulance Service; Hamilton Mental Health Agency; and Parke County Commissioners. The Project Director is Dr. Roberta Bowers, Superintendent of schools.

MSD Wayne Township Schools received \$197,255. The corporation will build on the guidelines currently in place—resulting in a set of guidelines that will encompass the challenges present in our post 9-11 world. The grant will allow them to reach out to students, staff, and all parts of a diverse community to share their message for school and community safety. Their grant partners are: the Marion County Health Department; Midtown Community Mental Health; Marion County Sheriff’s Department; Marion County Emergency Management; Wayne Township Fire Department; and the Wayne Township Trustee’s Office. The Project Director is Chuck Hibbert, Coordinator of Safety and Transportation Services.

The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, announced this discretionary grant program in May 2003. A total of \$38 million was awarded to 136 school districts in 38 states. Awards were made in accordance with school size: small districts with 1-20 school facilities were awarded up to \$100,000, medium-size schools with 21 to 75 school facilities were awarded a maximum of \$250,000, and large-size school districts with 76 or more facilities received a maximum of \$500,000 for the 18-month grant period.